

You would also find Bob doing the announcing at the local Glenn County Fair parade each year, having something encouraging to say about each entry as he knew just about each one personally.

After Bob retired as Chief of Police, he did not let that stop him from serving his town. He wanted to honor those who served our country so he assisted in facilitating the Motor-Icicle Run in honor of Orland's veterans.

As a minister of his church, Victory in Christ Community Church, Bob mentored and married many young couples. Bob also organized events for his church such as the Annual Soup Bowl where once a year he and his church would make and serve food to the homeless in the community. Bob also had a passion for music and used his talent to serve God as the leader of the Victory in Christ Community Church worship band. Bob counted himself as a "prayer warrior" constantly asking for prayer through social media and personally for people he knew of in need, touching many lives with his strong faith.

Bob Pasero passed away on July 25, 2018 after a hard fought battle with cancer. He will always be remembered by his family and neighbors for his contagious love for life and for others that he so gladly served.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Robert Franklin Pasero for his commitment and service to the community of Orland.

**ALEXIS PAGET RECEIVES LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY HERO AWARD**

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 7, 2018*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexis Paget of Missouri City, TX, for receiving the Hero Award from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Alexis, a 16 year old student at Ridge Point High School, won the national award for her fundraising efforts during the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Texas Gulf Coast Chapter's 2018 Students of the Year campaign. Alexis raised over \$61,000 with her fundraising team and her class brought in over \$350,000 to fight blood cancer. This funding is then distributed by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to over 1.3 million blood cancer patients in the U.S. Paget ran her campaign in honor of her grandfather, who lost his battle to Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Alexis Paget for receiving the Hero Award from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. I thank her for her dedication to creating a world without blood cancer.

**IN RECOGNITION OF CONNIE JACKSON**

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 7, 2018*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Connie Jackson, an extraordinary public serv-

ant and tireless advocate for residents for her 15 years as the City Manager for the City of San Bruno, California. She has left her mark on just about every square inch of this Peninsula city of 43,000 people. I have had the great honor to work with Connie during the best and the worst of times. Her moral compass guides her and she is never afraid to take on challenges. I am proud to call Connie Jackson a colleague and good friend.

Under Connie's capable leadership, San Bruno has not only survived the Great Recession of 2008, it came out stronger on the other side. All city programs and services were intact, the city was financially stronger, and it earned an AA+ credit rating. Connie oversaw San Bruno's completion of an updated General Plan and helped create a long-term vision for a city friendly to residents and businesses. She is particularly proud of the redevelopment of a former Navy site into a housing complex called Village at the Crossing, which provides over 1,000 apartments for individuals and families, including affordable units for senior citizens. She was also instrumental in the redevelopment of The Shops at Tanforan, a large shopping mall frequented by shoppers and diners from all over the Bay Area.

For over a decade, Connie worked on the planning, design and construction of the CalTrain grade separation and station, offering commuters access to convenient public transportation. Connie oversaw the rebuilding of the entire aging water and wastewater infrastructure, and the building of mixed-use residential and commercial projects downtown and along El Camino Real. One of the elements to her success is her talent to connect the dots and collaborate with other individuals and agencies.

The ultimate test of her leadership came on September 9, 2010. At 6:11 p.m. that evening, a Pacific Gas and Electric Company natural gas transmission line exploded and tore a giant crater into one of the residential streets. The horrendous explosion and fire killed eight residents, destroyed 38 homes and devastated a neighborhood. Connie, along with other city leaders, fought with everything she had to heal the physical and psychological trauma her community suffered. I closely worked with Connie in the years following the explosion and she never wavered or was afraid to speak truth to power. She demonstrated strong leadership in the initial emergency response, community and recovery efforts, and pipeline safety advocacy. She led the city's work with the National Transportation Safety Board investigation and the proceedings before the California Public Utilities Commission. Connie and her colleagues were instrumental in exposing regulatory failures and corruption and in forcing corrections. Due to that work, cities all across the country have safer, improved gas utility infrastructure.

Connie was also a consoler throughout the crisis. She offered her shoulder to cry on, her hugs to comfort, her smile to reassure, and her wisdom to move forward. To this day, she has regular contact with survivors.

While nothing will bring back the eight victims of the San Bruno explosion, PG&E was forced to give \$120 million to the city for community restoration, recovery and restitution. Being the community-loving and resilient city that San Bruno is, the residents decided they wanted to spend the money benefitting all residents. The city will build a new recreation

center and aquatics center for everyone in San Bruno to enjoy.

Connie's talents and achievements have been recognized on many occasions. For example, she received the 2012 League of California Cities City Manager of Distinction award, the California Women Leading Government Leadership Award, and the 2006 International City/County Management Association program innovation award. She is a life member of the Municipal Management Assistants of Northern California and a member of ICMA.

Before serving San Bruno, Connie was the city manager of the City of Hercules and the City of Fort Bragg for a combined 18 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to recognize Connie Jackson, a woman and leader I hold in high esteem, for her vision, strength and perseverance fighting for the interests of the residents of three California cities. She can enter her well-deserved retirement knowing that she has improved the lives of tens of thousands of people. San Bruno residents are lucky to count themselves among them. Connie leaves behind giant shoes to fill. Many will lead San Bruno through the next decades, but no one will leave a legacy that echoes across the generations. This will be the unique contribution of Connie Jackson.

**TRIBUTE TO HOPE AND BILL PRATT**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 7, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Hope and Bill Pratt of New Market, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They were married on June 27, 1948.

Hope and Bill's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 70th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

**REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DR. RUSSELL PLATT**

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 7, 2018*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Dr. Russell Platt, age 91, who passed away on August 2, 2018 in Akron, Ohio. Dr. Platt was the first African-American doctor to finish his residency at Akron City Hospital, and he was one of the first African-American doctors in Akron to have an integrated medical practice. His story is truly inspiring.

Dr. Platt was born on July 10, 1927 in Latta, South Carolina to Francis and Carlie Platt. He

attended Dillon County Training School, an unaccredited school in Latta for Negroes. He finished his high school education at Voorhees Preparatory School before going to South Carolina State University. There, he studied from 1945 until 1949, majoring in biology and secondary education and minoring in chemistry. Later, Dr. Platt received his master's degree in education from The Ohio State University. Upon graduation, he served in the newly integrated United States Air Force. He studied aviation physiology and quickly rose to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in Aviation Medicine. In 1960, he graduated and received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee.

After graduating, Dr. Platt moved to Akron, Ohio with his soulmate Barbara to train as a doctor. He knew he would be unable to be a doctor if he remained in South Carolina. Russell resided in Akron for 58 years, practicing medicine there for 51 of those years. Through the course of his career it is estimated that Platt has cared for over 25,000 patients and frequently handed out his personal cellphone number for after-hour emergencies. He was beloved by the community for his service; believing that his work was a calling rather than simply a career.

Beyond his own practice, Dr. Platt was a proud member of The American Medical Association, The Ohio State Medical Association, The Summit County Medical Association, The American Society of Internal Medicine, and The National Medical Association. He received many honors and accolades through the years. Most recently, Summa Health established the Russell Platt Clerkship, collecting over \$10,000 for medical residents. He was selected for the prestigious Crain's Magazine "Eight over Eighty." He was also featured in an article in the Akron Beacon Journal, "Pioneering Black Doctor Living his calling at 89."

But above all, Dr. Platt was dedicated to his wife and six children. A true family man, he cherished the time spent with them. He is quoted as saying, "You can't go back. Take care of those kids while you can—go to their concerts, take them to piano lessons, take them to shows." He and his wife Barbara, who passed away in 2012, are survived by six children, Michael and Russell Platt Jr., Pamela Potts, Deborah Watters, Renee, Kimberly, and ten grandchildren to carry on their memory. Dr. Russell Platt will leave a lasting impact, and I know he is dearly missed by his family and the greater community of Akron. I extend my deepest and sincerest condolences.

#### PLANTATION AT QUAIL VALLEY NAMED SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 7, 2018*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Plantation at Quail Valley in Missouri City, for being named Senior Living Community of the Year.

Plantation at Quail Valley in Missouri City was named Senior Living Community of the Year by the Houston Apartment Association

(HAA). Each year, HAA presents awards to different properties located within its 12 county membership area. Receiving this award is a prestigious honor for Plantation at Quail Valley, not only locally but also brings much statewide and national recognition. This senior living community is state of the art and is greatly valued by the residents of Missouri City.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Plantation at Quail Valley for being named Senior Living Community of the Year. Thanks for helping make Missouri City a wonderful place to live.

#### THE SPANISH FLAG LOWERED FOR THE FINAL TIME ON TEXAS SOIL

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 7, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the day was July 21, 1821. The heat of the Texas summer sun beat down upon San Antonio de Bexar, the future site of the Battle of the Alamo. The flag of Imperial Spain billowed in the wind above the roofs of the mission town. This day, however, would be the final day that this flag would fly over Texas.

For nearly three centuries, the Spanish governed Texas. Conquistadores, missionaries, and adventurers made their way to Texas, drawn in by the bountiful opportunities of the seemingly endless land. However, resistance against Spanish rule began to take root within its overseas colonies. In Texas, filibusters from the United States crossed into Spanish territory attempting to claim land loosely controlled by Spanish royal forces. Mexico caught the fever of revolution, and by the early 1800's, certain individuals, including Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, were promoting resistance to aspects of Spanish rule.

To make matters worse, Spain was forced to cede Louisiana as a result of the Napoleonic Wars at home to France, who then sold it to President Thomas Jefferson and the United States.

Eventually, the pressure became too great from within, and the Mexican war of Independence began in 1810. Revolutionaries, both Hispanic and Anglos, living across Spanish Mexico took up arms in open revolt against the Spanish occupiers. In Texas, Jose Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara and Augustus W. Magee captured Nacodoches, La Bahia, and San Antonio, the capital of Spanish Texas at the time, and proclaimed Texas an independent state in 1813. Despite their early success, the group eventually was defeated decisively by Spanish forces, thus keeping Texas under Spain's control.

However, the days of Spanish rule were numbered, and eventually the independence movement in Mexico under Agustin de Iturbide and Vicente Guerrero successfully drove the Spanish from Mexican shores once and for all. Mexico would officially become an independent nation on July 21, 1821. Having provided resistance against Spanish rule, Texas remained a part of an independent Mexico until the Texas Revolution fifteen years later.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to honor the state's history. The Spanish flag is one of the Six Flags over Texas, part of the rich tapestry of the state's history, and this event represents an important moment in the history of our nation.

And that is just the way it is.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT JAMES (JIMMY) RIZZO

#### HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 7, 2018*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the service and sacrifice of James (Jimmy) Rizzo. Growing up in Brooklyn, New York, in the shadow of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, his draft notice arrived in 1942. Mr. Rizzo was sent to Camp Crowder in Neosho, Missouri for basic training, and upon completion of his training, he was assigned to the 96th Battalion and transferred to Louisiana.

In 1943, he arrived in the Burmese theater, where he would be stationed to serve. Mr. Rizzo was constantly on the move in Burma. His duty was retrieving supplies and packages by airdrop from dangerous jungles and terrains, ensuring these supplies arrived at their military and medical destinations on time and intact. The job was a dangerous one, and during his time in Burma he faced two near-death situations.

Having been promoted from Private to Corporal and then to Sergeant, he was awarded the African and Burma Stars. For his service and sacrifice, our nation will always be indebted to Sergeant Rizzo, and his bravery and selflessness then and now continues to inspire us all.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARLENE AND LARRY HUMMEL

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 7, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Marlene and Larry Hummel of Atlantic, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 55th wedding anniversary. They were married on June 16, 1963 at Oakland United Methodist Church in Oakland, Iowa.

Marlene and Larry's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 55th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 55th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.